The Lions' Pride

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Robert Edsel: Is Art Worth a Life?

By Jessica Willing & Christine Bocchino
Contributing Writers

What could possibly prompt well-educated and cultivated men and women- most of them middle-aged- to leave behind the comforts of home to fight in one of the most horrific wars in history? In World War II, the answer was very simple for a very strange military demographic—the preservation of art and culture.

On Oct. 21, Robert Edsel addressed the Saint Leo community and guests regarding a group of unsung WWII heroes. Edsel is the man responsible for bringing this group, known as Monuments Men, into the modern day limelight thanks to his research into their work and the books he has written about them. Edsel founded the Monuments Men Foundation in 2007 to carry on the legacy of the group.

"What drives me is meaningfulness," Edsel said. "I got hugely interested in art and architecture. I always say: Florence is my classroom and Europe is my school."

Curiosity led Edsel away from owning his own business to picking up and moving to Florence, Italy, to study European art. The arts brought him to the doorstep of his research in the "monuments men," soldiers during World War II dedicated to preserving the European artwork in the war zone. They would attempt to steer the bombing away from museums and fix damaged artworks after the war shifted from mostly air strikes to fighting on foot.

According to the Monuments Men foundation, their namesake was a military group founded in 1943, when President Roosevelt approved the forming of the "American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in War Areas." The move was necessary on Roosevelt's part when it came to his attention the extensive threat Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime posed to the cultural and artistic treasures in war-torn Europe.

An aspiring artist in his youth, Hitler's rejection from art school did not deter him from being a lover of art. As his power and influence in Germany grew, he began to lay plans to establish a new museum in the village of Braunau Am Inn, where he was born. It was to be the cultural center of Hitler's empire, and he aspired to fill it with the most awe-inspiring masterpieces known to man.

Nothing was safe from Nazi looting. Paintings, books from famous libraries, stained glass stripped from cathedrals, church bells, ancient torrahs from synagogues- anything of value that the Nazis came across was seized. In 1939 museums across Europe closed their doors and scrambled to evacuate their valuables to protect them from looting and bombing during the war. For pieces too large to be moved, protective measures were taken to protect them from potential damage from bombs. Thousands of items ranging from priceless works of art to the silverware and valuables of victims were stolen as the Nazis' influence spread through Europe.

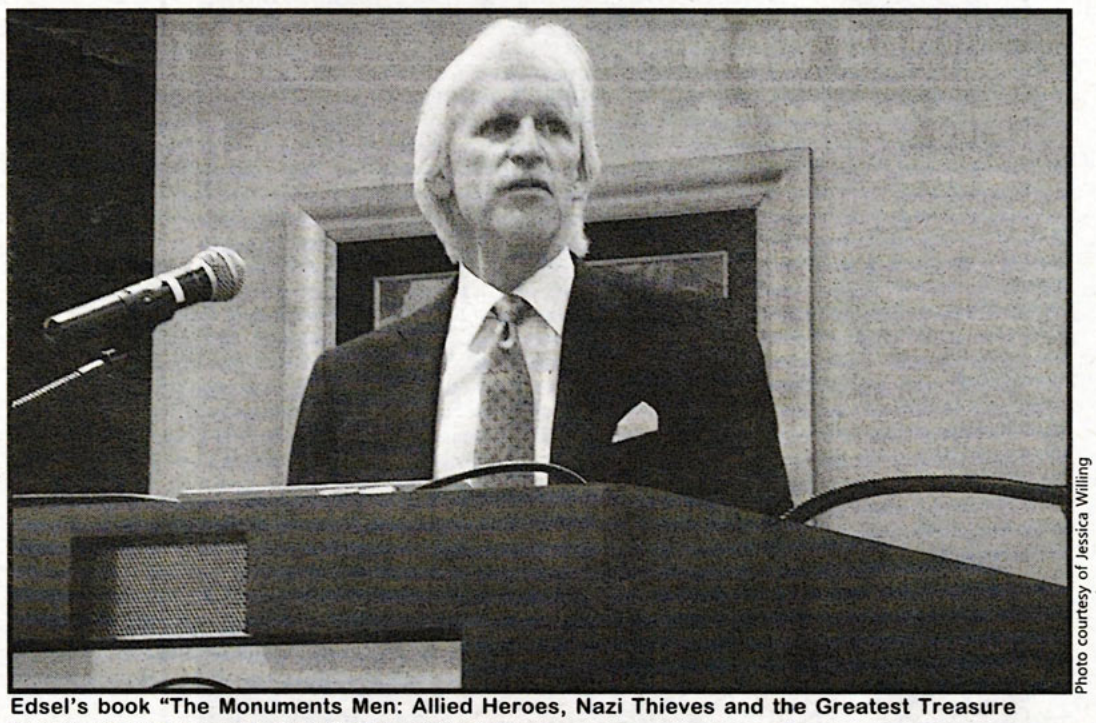

Photo courtesy of Jessica Willing

Edsel's book "The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History" is a #1 Best Seller on Amazon.

Nazis would steal and hide important artworks for Hitler's museum until the "monument men" discovered the cave in which many of the 5 million objects that were taken were kept. In total, there were 354 monument men working towards a common cause – to save art, and in doing so, preserve European culture.

Dr. Mary Spoto, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and a member of the University Speakers Series' committee, emphasized the necessity for the preservation of artwork.

"Art is a reflection of who we are – an extension of our own humanity. For a culture to be vibrant and well, its art must survive," said Spoto.

The job of the Monuments Men was originally limited to the preservation of artifacts and cultural treasures, a job easier said than done while the fighting was still going on in Europe. With concern first and foremost being preoccupied with winning the war, most of the resources were put into supporting ground troops. Several sacrificed their lives in their pursuit to hunt down looted cultural treasures amongst the violence.

It was not until the last year of the war that the Monuments Men were really able to get down to doing what they had left their homes behind for. With the fighting winding down, they were able to track and locate stolen items and eventually begin returning them to their rightful owners. When the war ended in 1945 and the combat troops began to return home, the work of the Monuments Men was only beginning.

For six years, the group stayed hard at work in Europe, tracking down hidden storehouse of Nazi loot, often stumbling among stockpiles with astronomical values. With each discovery, items were carefully identified and sent back to their homes. In 1951, with well over a thousand items still missing, the Monuments Men returned to America. Already, new conflict had risen, and so their work was not openly discussed. Many of the men and women who had done so much in Europe to protect the cultural heritage there carried on similar work at home, working in various cultural and educational institutions all over the nation.

Today, the Monuments Men Foundations reports that there are six living Monuments Men—Harry Ettlinger, Richard Barancik, Horace Apgar, Bernard Taper, Anne Oliver Popham Bell and Lennox Tierney. The Foundation also says that their work is still not finished, with hundreds of thousands of missing cultural documents and artifacts still unaccounted for.

Edsel's presentation resonated deeply with some students who attended, especially his question about just how far people are willing to preserve art.

"Me personally, I would risk my life for art because art ties us to our culture and history, and that's something worth dying for," said Anthony Russian.

Photo courtesy of @monumentsmovie Twitter

Edsel's book was adapted into the 2014 movie "The Monuments Men," directed by George Clooney.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

Speaker Bill Deering

Photo courtesy of Council for Disability Awareness Twitter

Halloween Costumes

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Where They Stand

Photos courtesy of @ FL GovScott Twitter and Dscosson in Wikimedia Commons

Editorial

Dinner with Robert Edsel

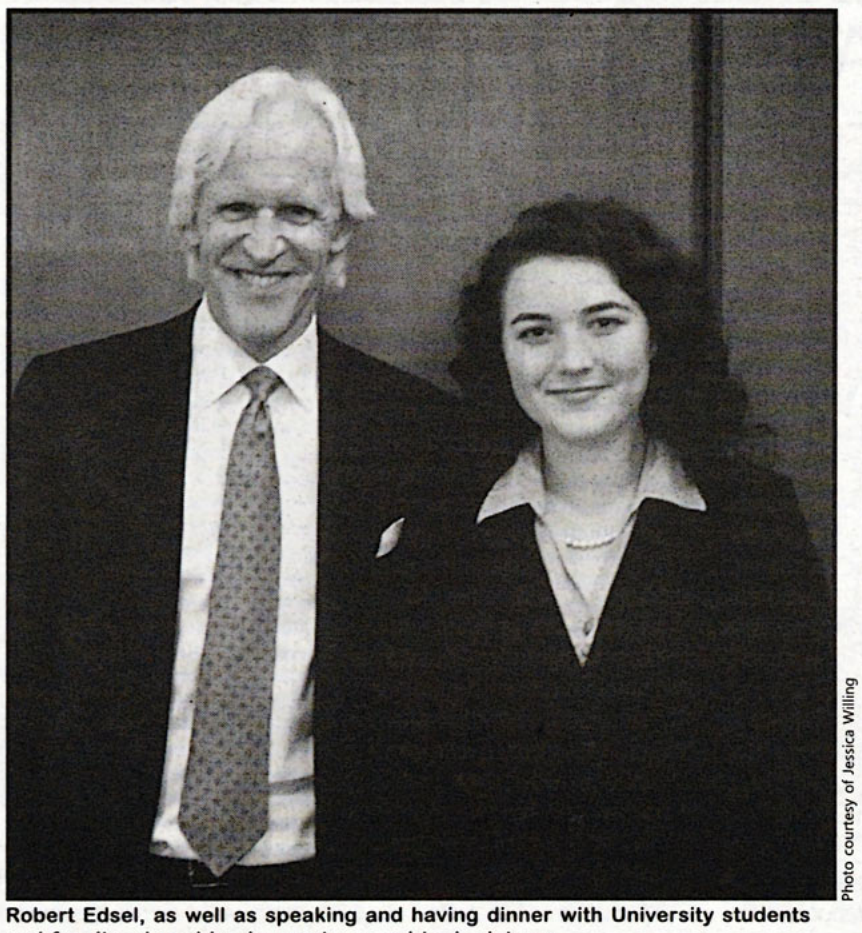

Photo courtesy of Jessica Willing

Robert Edsel, as well as speaking and having dinner with University students and faculty, signed books, posters, and took pictures.

By Jessica Miller
Layout Editor

Robert Edsel was watched intently by the small group of people who sat at the white linen table to dine with him. But dinner was barely touched because we were so immersed in the conversation about his thoughts, books, The Monuments Men film, and some of his general observations on recovering art—all in the span of an hour and a half.

Edsel discussed the hundreds of hours he spent researching for his three books, Rescuing Da Vinci, The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes—Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History, and Saving Italy: The Race to Rescue a Nation's Treasures from the Nazis. He said he was devoted to reading his sources and giving them the due credit they deserved. Each source attributed small bits of information that could hardly be simplified, but Edsel talked about his mission to bring awareness to the heroes with the nickname, Monuments Men.

He discussed that his mission to bring about awareness is a never-ending mission, but he feels happy with the success of the 2014 film, The Monuments Men. He says that with the talents and passions of so many actors, people worldwide are for the first time learning and understanding the impact the Monuments Men had. He explains that recovering art takes time, and that art is always coming to surface from all types of people who were affiliated with World War II. Art was shown to him in different perspectives by an instructor, and he says that is where his passion for art started. His years of study and research of art and art recovery made his passion grow, and now he is proud of the work that he and the team at the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art strives for every day.

The dinner was fulfilling, and left us pushing away from our tables with smiles on our faces. As Edsel was signing books outside the SCC Boardrooms, the other dinner attendees were eager to continue discussing the ideas and thought of Edsel, grateful for 90 minutes of his company.

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World News

Could there be an Ebola Outbreak?

By Shayvonne Renaud
Contributing Writer

Recently the media has covered the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, reporting the increasing amount of infected people and deaths. There have been three confirmed cases of the Ebola virus in Dallas, Texas, raising the question, "Will there be an Ebola Outbreak in the U.S.?"

The first known case of the Ebola Virus was in 1976 in The Democratic Republic of Congo, and although this virus is typically fatal, one must consider how the virus is contracted and transmitted before one contemplates an outbreak in the U.S. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ebola virus is contracted and spread in three major ways:

- Direct contact with infected animals
- Direct contact with the blood/bodily fluids of an infected person
- Contact with contaminated objects such as needles and syringes

Those at a greater risk of contracting the virus are those who have travelled to an area affected by the Ebola virus, or have come into direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected animal or person. Although there have been several reported cases of infections in the U.S., these are isolated incidents of travelers returning from infected locations or medical staff treating those infected who have breached protocol.

During a press release by President Obama on Oct. 15, it was confirmed that two of the nurses that treated Thomas Eric Duncan, the first known Ebola patient in the U.S., contracted the Ebola virus. It was made clear that the infected nurses, Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, may have made a mistake in protocol and that the government and CDC are taking aggressive preventive measures to train and retrain all medical staff at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital. The point was made that the Ebola virus has been around for decades and has been successfully treated at both Emory University Hospital and the University of Nebraska Medical Center without incident. Therefore, the CDC and the U.S. Government will enlist a response team, similar to a SWAT team, to go onsite when someone is diagnosed with Ebola, so that the government and CDC can ensure that protocol is properly followed, and that all protective equipment and gear is used effectively and efficiently. The risk of infection is unlikely for those who have not travelled to infected areas or come into direct contact with those who are infected. However, President Barack Obama and CDC President Dr. Tom Frieden have joined efforts to reach out to anyone that may have come into contact with Ebola in the U.S. via contact tracing, a method of locating anyone who has come into contact with a symptomatic Ebola patient. According to the Mayo Clinic website, a non-profit medical research and practice healthcare company, symptoms for the Ebola virus occur within five to ten days of infection:

Fever greater than 101.5°F
Severe headache
Muscle pains
Weakness/fatigue
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Abdominal pain
Unexplained hemorrhaging (bleeding or bruising)

Students on campus have a vague understanding of the Ebola virus; some students are aware that the outbreak in West Africa was severe and are even conscious of the three Ebola patients in Dallas, but are unaware as to how Ebola is contracted.

"I don't know. I just know that it came from Africa," said Junior Kendra Hinson.

In response to the public's growing concerns about a potential outbreak in the U.S., President Obama said, "I want people to understand that the dangers of you contracting Ebola, the dangers of a serious outbreak are extraordinarily low. But we are taking this very seriously at the highest levels of government. And we are going to be able to manage this particular situation, but we have to look towards the future."

Although the risk of contracting Ebola in the U.S. is low it is important to practice good personal hygiene and wash your hands regularly to prevent common illnesses and the spread of germs. It is also important to research and maintain awareness of the spread of illnesses and diseases in your area.

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- ENG 430 The Independent Writer
- COM 333 Web Design and Information Resources
- ART 226 Beginning Photography

Medical Marijuana

By Autumn Murray, Courtney Sullivan, Erin Gaylord and Kaylee Boyd
Contributing Writers

On Nov. 4, Florida voters will decide if their state will be the 24th to legalize medical marijuana.

The amendment, if passed, will allow for the use of medical marijuana for "individuals with debilitating diseases" as determined by licensed Florida physicians. It is important to notice that it does not authorize the use, possession or production of recreational marijuana. Centers that produce and distribute medical marijuana will be registered and regulated by the Department of Health, who will give identification cards to eligible patients and caregivers.

Marijuana helps maximize the output of chemicals our bodies already produce. According to WebMD, there are chemicals that the human body already makes that are "marijuana-like" and help with pain, inflammation and other processes of the body. Laura Borgelt, clinical pharmacy specialist at the University of Colorado, said, according to WebMD, that marijuana can help these natural chemicals, already in our body, to work better. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIH), scientific studies of cannabinoids—the active chemicals in marijuana—have shown the therapeutic benefits while aiming to minimize the harmful side effects, along with the "high," caused by using marijuana.

Some of the illnesses that can be improved by marijuana use are: glaucoma, AIDS wasting syndrome, cancer, multiple sclerosis, chemotherapy-induced nausea and certain seizure disorders, according to the US Food and Drug Association (FDA). However, side effects include dizziness, drowsiness, short-term memory loss and euphoria.

Two main cannabinoids are of interest when looking for the therapeutic benefits of marijuana, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC, the psychoactive ingredient) and cannabidiol (CBD). THC is what stimulates appetite from the drug and can help to reduce nausea, while decreasing pain, inflammation, and "spasticity." CBD is also helpful in reducing pain and inflammation, while also helping to control seizures and possibly psychosis and addictions.

Medical marijuana can be smoked, vaporized, eaten or taken in a liquid extract, according to WebMD. The aim of medical marijuana is to gain the benefits of the plant without the side effects and "high" that its use creates. The FDA has not approved marijuana as a safe drug, but they have approved some drugs that contain THC and CBD, according to the NIH.

On the University campus, The Lions' Pride ran a poll to determine student opinion on the matter. Out of 91 students and faculty members, 78 percent are for medical marijuana, 15 percent are against it and 7 percent are undecided.

"I believe if it's used for good instead of abusing it, then I'm for it," said Sophomore Savannah Cook.

Freshman Dennis Donnelly believes marijuana's reputation is the major reason for why it is not already legal.

"If the proper regulations are put into a plan, then what risks are there? People who need medical marijuana should be entitled to it. It's lobbyist and drug companies who demonize it," said Donnelly.

Sophomore Franz Megie is unsure about medical marijuana.

"If there was more information available to the public about the subject, then I would have a opinion," said Megie.

Alexandra Blaha, who suffers from seizures, said her doctor doesn't know what is causing her seizures, but insists on raising her dosage of medication even though it has never been 100 percent effective. To this day, she continues to have incidents with seizures.

"If there are people that are out there that can benefit from it, why not legalize it to protect their wellbeing and make the option available without persecution," said

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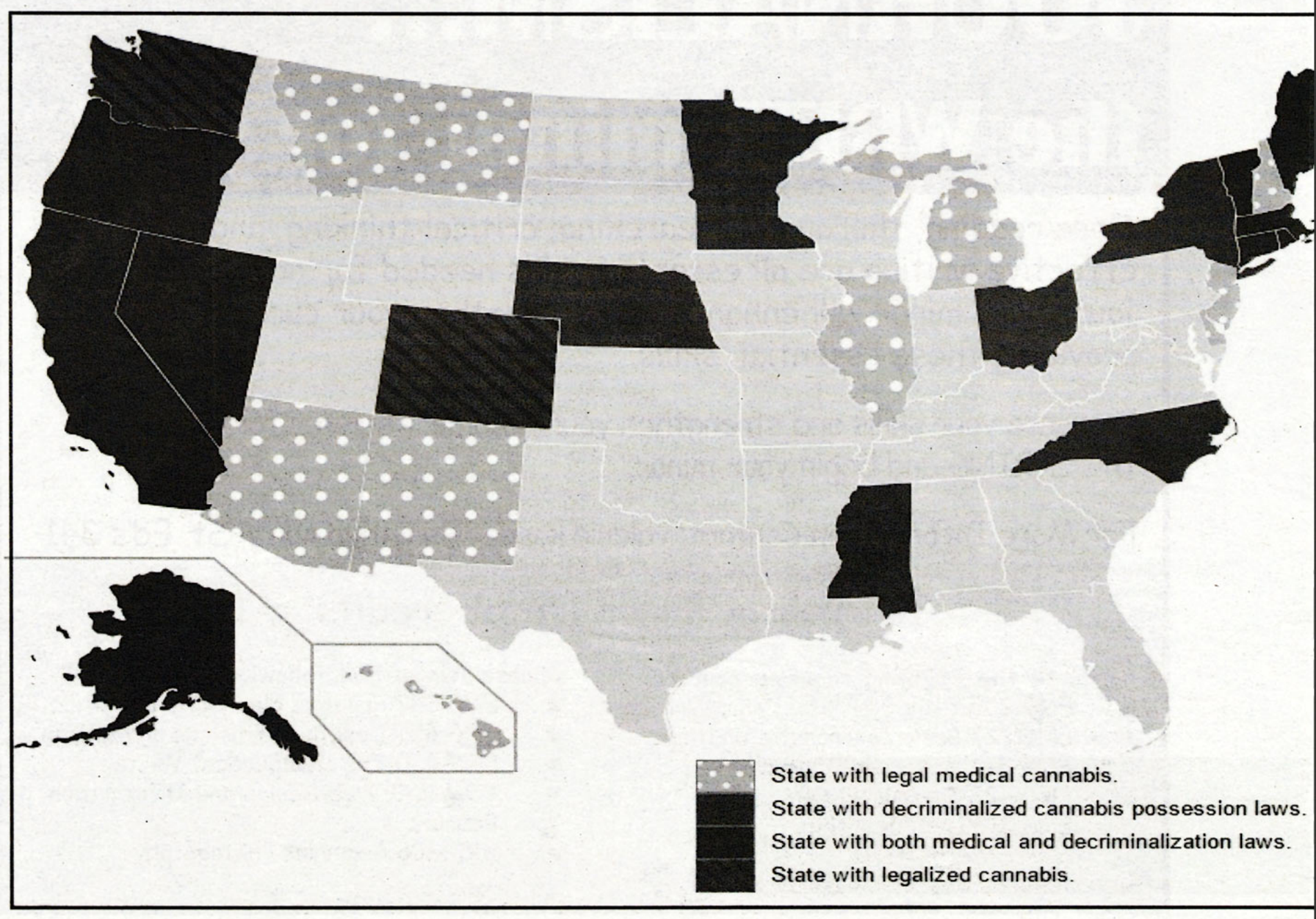
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State with both medical and decriminalization laws.
State with legalized cannabis.

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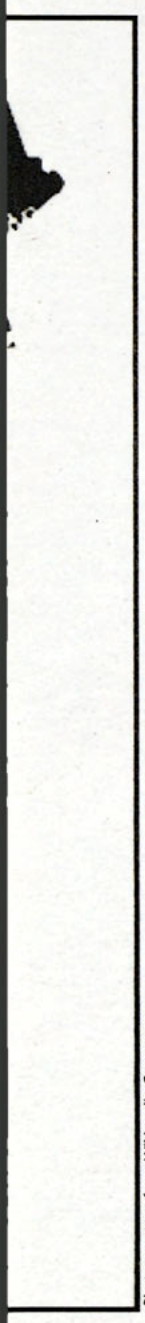


Photo courtesy from Wikimedia Commons

Blaha. "I have heard really good things about this medical marijuana that works well with people who have the same symptoms (involved with) seizures as myself."

Matthew Craft, a recent criminal justice graduate and employee at the Learning Resource Center on campus, agrees.

"I have Multiple Sclerosis, a debilitating auto-immune disease and have suffered since I was 18 years old. I was introduced to marijuana in my early 20s and quickly discovered that the medicinal benefits were tremendous. Marijuana has lowered my pain, stress and anxiety levels and allowed me to live pain free and excel at my studies because of that," said Craft. "I believe medical marijuana should be legal not only medically but recreational use."

"It will be more difficult to control recreational use if it is passed medically," said Dr. Terry Danner, a criminal justice professor at the University.

He said, by passing medical marijuana, people may think the recreational use of the drug does not have many health risks since it is passed as a prescription drug. In addition, if it is legal for medical purposes, there may not be as much judgment toward people who use marijuana recreationally.

Outside of the University campus, there has been a heated debate on the legalization of medical marijuana. In the United States, there has always been controversy over medical marijuana.

In 1996, Colorado was one of the first states to legalize Marijuana for medical use. Over the past ten years, other states such as Montana, Arizona, Illinois and Michigan have also legalized medical marijuana. As of Oct. 20, 23 states have legalized medical marijuana, according to the National Conference of State Legislators.

In Florida, there has been much debate about the legalization of marijuana for medical use. For Florida's law to pass, at least 60 percent of voters have to be in favor of medical marijuana. Between October 7 and 12 a poll was issued by the University of Florida that showed 47 percent of the voters were opposed to it while 7 percent were undecided. If this poll is any indication of the general opinion in Florida, it is likely that medical marijuana will not be legalized.

Gov. Rick Scott believes there are some good attributes to marijuana, but overall it is not a good medicine to endorse.

"But, having seen the terrible effects of alcohol and drug abuse first-hand, I cannot endorse sending Florida down this path and I would personally vote against it," said Scott, according to the BallotPedia website.

This past June, Gov. Rick Scott signed a law nicknamed, 'Charlotte's Web' that allows physicians to prescribe a special strain of marijuana to decrease the number of epileptic seizures and help with symptoms of other diseases. This law also protects the identity of those who use medical marijuana.

"As a father and a Grandfather, you never want to see your kids suffer," said Scott, according to BallotPedia.

Charlie Crist, the gubernatorial opponent of Gov. Rick Scott, has a different view on medical marijuana.

"This is an issue of compassion, trusting doctors and trusting the people of Florida," said Scott, according to The Huffington Post. "I will vote for it."

John Morgan, founder and chairman of Morgan & Morgan, is a persistent supporter for legalizing medical marijuana. Back in June, Morgan presented a petition in front of the Secretary of State to try to make it legal in all of America. It was not successful.

"This 60's reefer madness attitude has to go away. We all know now that this is not a dangerous drug and it's actually much safer than other drugs," said State Senator Jeff Clemons from Lake Worth Florida, according to BallotPedia.

In less than a week, Florida will decide whether or not to legalize medical marijuana. If voters approve Amendment 2, the next step will be creating and working through the small details of the rules for using and handling the drug. The Department of Health will only have six to nine months to do this, according to the Miami Herald.

Lions' Thoughts

On the Saint Leo campus, The Lions' Pride ran a poll to determine the people's opinion on the matter. Out 108 students and faculty members, 79 percent are for medical marijuana, 15 percent against, and 6 percent are undecided.

"Like any other drug it will potentially be abused, but it isn't as dangerous as Oxycodone or Vicodin."
–Isabella Bains, Junior

"Marijuana has plenty of health benefits, but I don't know that our society is responsible enough to use it appropriately."
–Zach Brasseur, Senior

"People will legally be allowed to purchace a medicine that could greatly help them."
–Dalton Hart, Senior

"I'm against medical marijuana being legalized, because I feel that people would take advantage of it, instead of using it for what its needed." –Berta Morillo, Senior

"I think people who don't really need it will take advantage of it."
–Daniella Ilardo, Sophomore

"I believe that pain relief for thousands out weigh the minute risks."
–Daniel Wright, Alumni

Arts & Entertainment

Bring Your Outfits to Life This Fall

By Rikki-Ann Hussey
Contributing Writer

Fall accessories can transform any of your dull outfits into your own creative masterpieces. Accessories can be used for various purposes, but their main purpose is to demonstrate your personality in an eccentric way.

You can find the latest fashion accessories at these fashion-noteworthy stores: the fashion forward Forever 21, accessory haven Charming Charlie's, and the savvy accessory store Icing. Some of the latest accessories for this fall include over-sized purses, stylish backpacks, sunglasses, colorful flats, and oxfords. Jewelry accessories for this fall include: statement necklaces, long necklaces with an eccentric pendants, dangling earrings and pearl bracelets.

Accessorizing with an over-sized purse is a big fall fashion statement. Its size makes it easy to capitalize on this accessory. For students as well as career women, right now is the best time to snag up the newest styles. Some of the most popular colors include: black, neon green, pink, and patterned.

Ladies, in order to ring in the fall season, you need a stylish backpack. The most sought after looks this fall include (but are not limited to) leather, fun prints, and cool metallics. Carrying books doesn't have to be dull, but it can be fun if you accessorize with your choice of a girly backpack.

Being that we are in sunny Florida, where the sun is still shining, we have an excuse to wear sunglasses in fall. Round and square sunglasses are the most prevalent looks in style. As a fashion trend, sunglasses give your outfit a composed look because they add to your outfit. This is always a fun accessory to play with in your own unique way.

Yellow, red, pink, blue, white and green are just several of the many colors that you can rock when you choose your flats this fall. Many of you ladies may hesitate at the thought of wearing flats in fall, but pairing them with cute jeans or tights is a fashion-forward way to incorporate this look as an accessory in your fall look. Flats can also be worn in summer and spring, so having this accessory is a valuable investment.

Oxfords have become very popular over the last few years. This accessory adds class and sass to your outfits. The most popular colors include white and beige, but wearing a colored oxford is actually a great way to add pop to your outfit. These shoes are very comfortable, so no need to worry ladies; they won't kill your feet.

Statement necklaces have been a huge trend for a while now, and it doesn't seem this trend will be going anywhere any time soon. Wearing the right statement necklace can bring any outfit to the next level. If you are wearing a large, chunky statement necklace that might be the only accessory you need to wear with a cute dress.

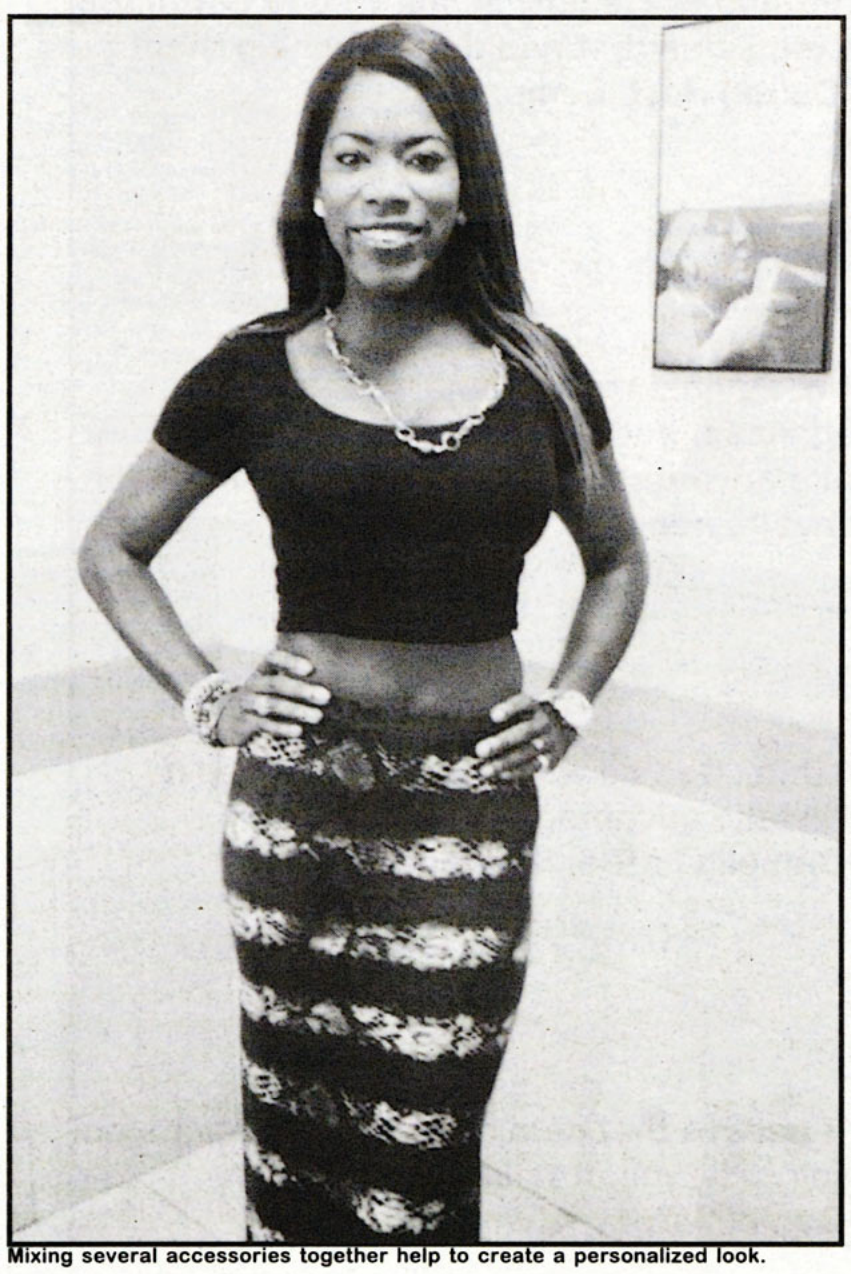
Sunny Florida gives us an excuse to rock our favorite sunglasses.

My personal favorite way to wear a long necklace with an eccentric pendant is pairing it with something that is otherwise boring, like a plain dress or with a simple sweater and jeans. Eccentric pendants include: any animal pendants—owls are very popular this season. This accessory is an easy yet fun way to dress up something simple, and it can be worn in so many versatile ways. You can wear a cute long necklace with an elephant pendant, which can be the theme of your outfit based on the colors of your outfit.

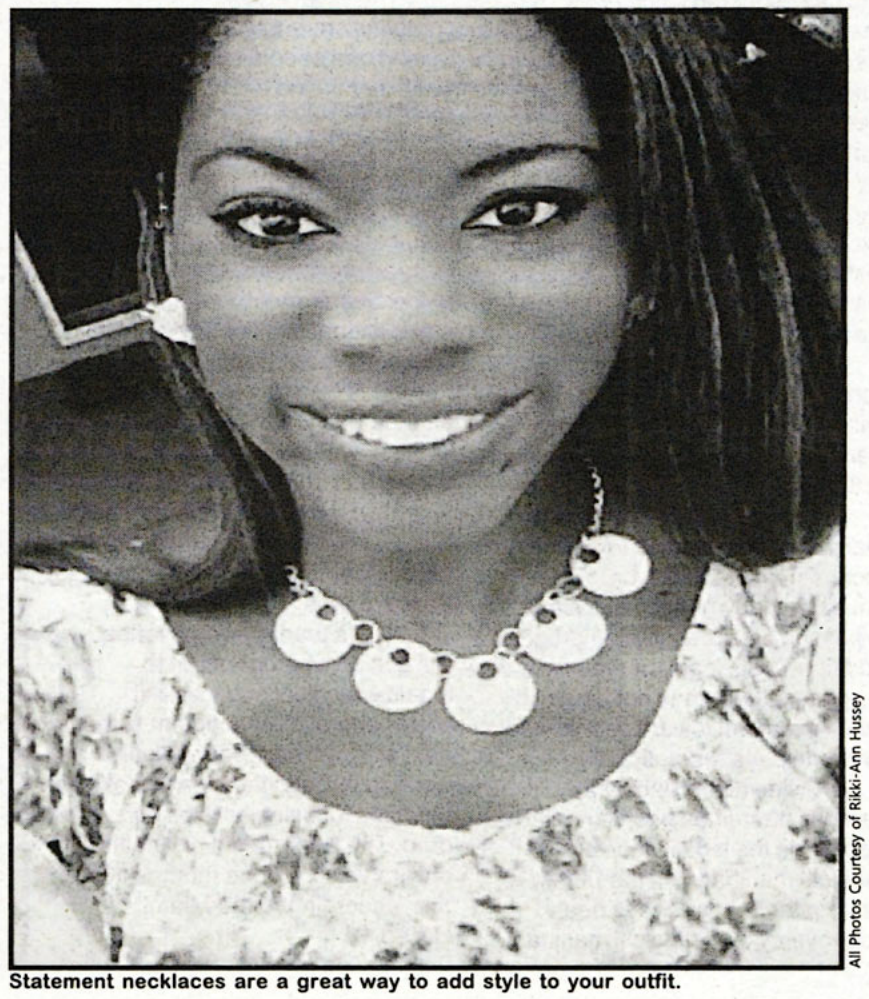
If you love earrings you're going to love this fall accessory: dangling earrings. They are cute and add personality to whatever you are wearing. Some of the most sort after looks include: chandelier, rhinestone, feather, and pearl. This accessory can be used to bring out your personality because there are so many different types you can choose from in order to find the one that you identify with.

Pearls are timeless. Adding a pearl bracelet to your outfit is the accessory you can use to complete an elegant look.

Being able to transform your own outfit into an expression of your personality is always the goal, so capitalizing on these accessories will bring your outfit to life in your own personalized way. Ladies, accessories are your friends, not your foes, so have fun with whatever accessory you decide that fits your personality!



Mixing several accessories together help to create a personalized look.



Statement necklaces are a great way to add style to your outfit.

All Photos Courtesy of Rikki-Ann Hussey

Arts & Entertainment

Cosplay for Less: Make Your Own or Shop Cheap

By Jonah Robertson
Contributing Writer

Cosplay is an interesting cultural phenomenon that has become increasingly prevalent over the past decade. For those who do not know, Cosplay is the act of dressing up as a fictional character for personal enjoyment. Many people are interested in this hobby, but are put off by its apparent expense. There are, however, numerous ways to make a budget Cosplay that still looks fantastic.

The first thing to consider when building a Cosplay is, obviously, whom you would like to portray. Never just pick a character because you have a slight interest in them, pick one you truly wish to represent. That way you will be more passionate about the entire project, and this will often lead to a better Cosplay.

Once you have decided upon your character, the next step is to create a budget. Never plan something that will send you to the poorhouse, but at the same time, never let the apparent cost of a Cosplay discourage you from attempting it; there are always ways to make things cheaper. So, set yourself an amount of money you are willing to spend, and then begin researching what you need.

You can usually find the pieces of your intended Cosplay online, but that isn't the most cost effective method to acquire them. One caveat of this is that you need to be at least marginally artistically inclined in order to make your own costume; otherwise, you may need to resign yourself to purchasing the different parts of your costume. Being able to sew is also incredibly helpful in Cosplay creation.

If you are entirely lacking in artistic skill, there are some websites that you can use to try and find parts for your Cosplay. Etsy, a site where people sell hand-made products, is an incredibly helpful place to buy Cosplay supplies. Depending on the intricacy of your Cosplay, however, you can really start spending quite a bit of money if you buy everything online.

If you're creative enough, many household objects can be used as parts of a Cosplay. Yardsticks, soda cans, loose pieces of fabric – really anything can be used in a Cosplay, if you can find a way.

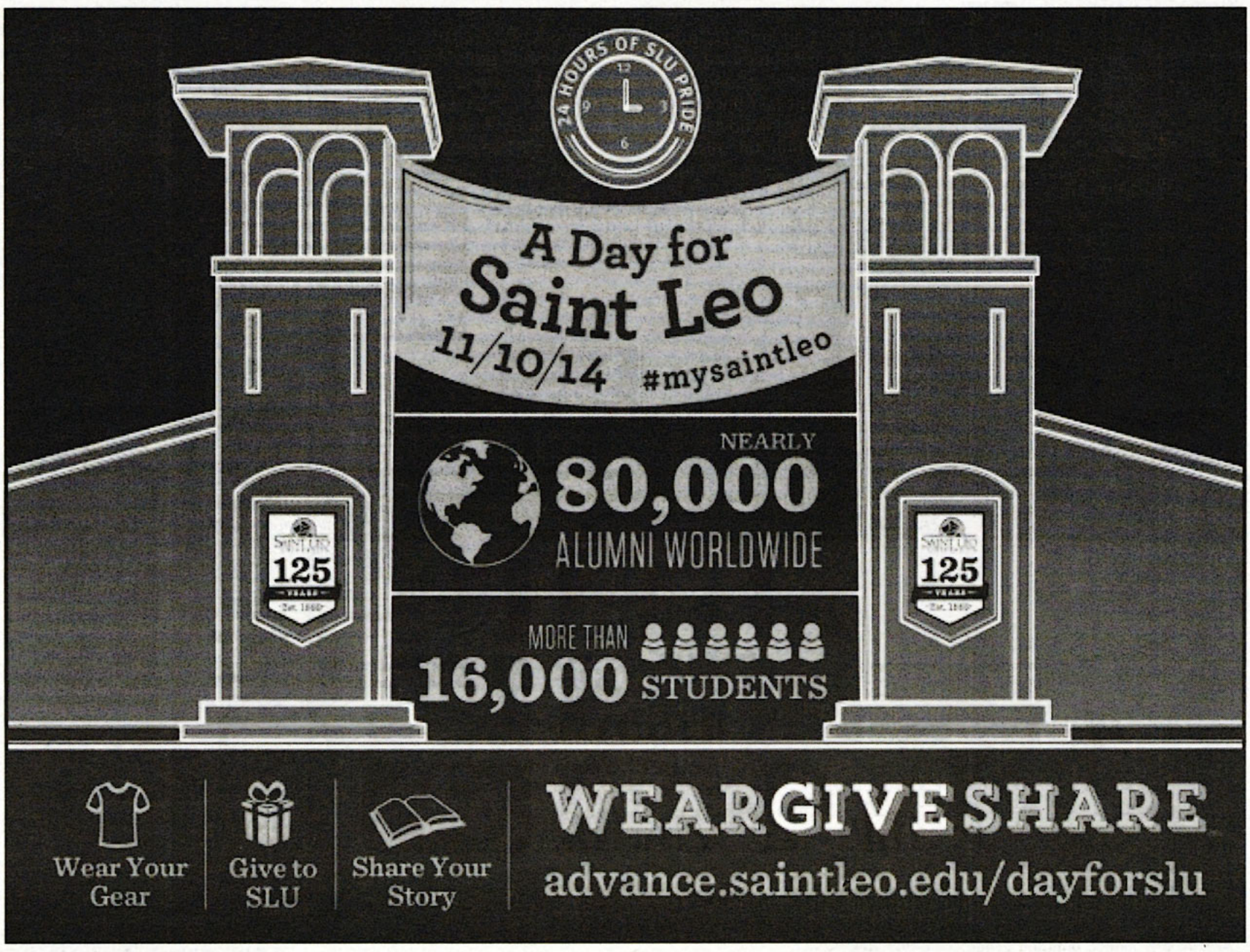
Thrift stores are a fantastic location to purchase materials for your Cosplay. Often you can get materials or pieces of clothing that match what you need perfectly, and cost barely anything.

Part of your budget will most likely go towards paints and other artistic supplies, so you should always plan for that. Try to find supplies that are the right color for whatever you're trying to create, in order to cut down on costs. The less you have to color or paint, the better.

Cosplay can be an incredibly rewarding hobby, but you need to be prepared to spend some money if you want to make a good one. However, using household supplies and smart budgeting, you can often find ways to make a Cosplay much cheaper than it could be. Never let the cost discourage you; it's an incredibly fun way to spend time. So go out there, budget, and Cosplay!

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

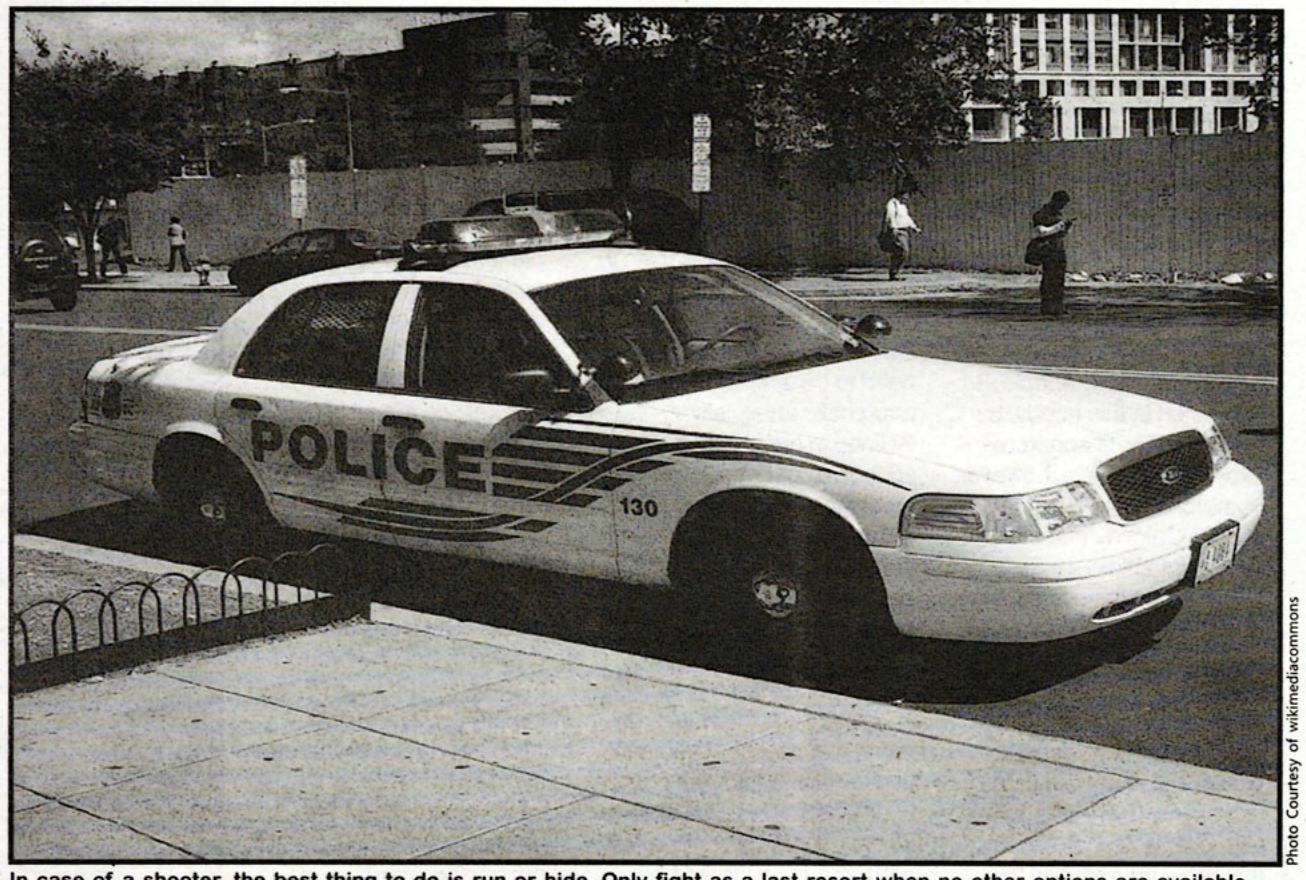
People sometimes try to get into character at conventions, posing for pictures like their character would.



Campus News

Campus Speaker: When a Shooter Appears

By Rebeccah Braun
Contributing Writer



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In case of a shooter, the best thing to do is run or hide. Only fight as a last resort when no other options are available.

Within the past two months there has been a gun on campus. A man in casual clothing walked from the parking garage to the bookstore and halfway back with a gun in his holster—yet only one person called security. Luckily, this man with a gun was an off duty police officer buying books; but what if he was not?

In this instance, there was the potential for an active shooter being on campus, and if there was, would we know how to react? Andy Gershkowitz, Mike D'ambrosio, and Mark Nash of Saint Leo Campus Security and Safety held an event focusing on how to respond if an active shooting breaks out in a public place. The event *Run, Hide, Fight* took place on three consecutive Mondays, Oct. 6, 13, and 20 and the title outlines how every individual, student or faculty, should respond if there is an active shooter in the area: run if there is an opportunity, hide in a secure spot if not, and fight only if there is no other option. This article is a small snippet of what to do if a shooting happens in a public place and a summary of the seminar's message.

The event began with Gershkowitz showing a PowerPoint on a school's response to an active shooter. Gershkowitz said that he thought it would be smart to hold this seminar because of recent events. One of those events he was referring to was the shooting at Cobb Grove 16 Theater in Wesley Chapel, FL, where the cause of the dispute was over texting before the movie started.

Gershkowitz explained that this is a nation of violence and an active shooting can happen anywhere, especially since guns are so prevalent in today's society. Although it may seem that active shootings are on the rise, it is highly unlikely to be caught up in one; nevertheless, it is still imperative to be prepared for the worst.

"In this situation the most important thing to have is a plan," said Gershkowitz.

If a shooter is on campus, the University will make an announcement over the loudspeaker, and everyone will receive a text message and an e-mail. As soon as the warning is given, the initial step is to come to terms with the situation so you are able to act rationally; although the traditional lockdown taught in schools is a good strategy, it is argued that it limits the natural instinct to get away from the shooter. Students are taught to hide, even if the shooter is on the opposite side of the campus. It is important to trust instincts and be aware of your surroundings. When you walk into a room for the first time, make notice of where all the exits are. Communicate with the people around you, but do not let them hold you back with indifference and do not stay in a group if they are not listening.

There are three actions that can be executed when a shooting is happening. The first is to run to a safe place and get as far away from the shooting as you can. Use your knowledge of the layout of the University to get away or to find a secure hiding spot. If running is not an option or the shooter is nearby, then the second action is to hide. Find a secure place and lock the door, or make a barricade, then turn off all the lights. When you are secure, try calling the police and give as much information as you can. If your hiding spot is in the open and your surroundings are quiet, evaluate your escape route before leaving, then execute it. Do not leave your hiding spot if it is a secure place, because as soon as you leave the hiding spot, you have the potential of getting in the way of the police or running into the shooter.

When law enforcement is dispatched to the University, their primary objective is to stop the threat. They walk in a four-man, diamond-shaped squad with the man in the back walking backwards. This allows them to see all of their surroundings and be able to react. If you come in contact with the police, cooperate with them. They are unfamiliar with the campus and do not know who the shooter is outside of brief descriptions. Do not question them, and stay clear of them since they are heading towards the shooter. After the threat is neutralized, they will tend to the wounded along with the second set of responders.

The shooter also has a plan; they come in with an objective and may even have certain targets. If the shooter discovers your hiding spot, the last line of defense is to attack. This should be the final option available. Mike empathized that this is a literal fight for your life. Use the numbers in your groups to try and restrain the shooter. Confuse them by yelling and throwing things. Someone in the group should take charge. If he is restrained, do not let him get up and relieve him of the weapon. Do not handle the gun unless you know what you are doing. After the PowerPoint, Mike and Mark showed a video that showed the PowerPoint in action. The seminar ended with questions and Mark made up a fake scenario where shots had been fired. The first thing everyone did was pick up chairs and start towards the door to barricade it. For the audience, the seminar really put into perspective how to react if there was an active shooter on campus.

For more information, please visit the Lion's Pride website to see the video shown during the presentation.

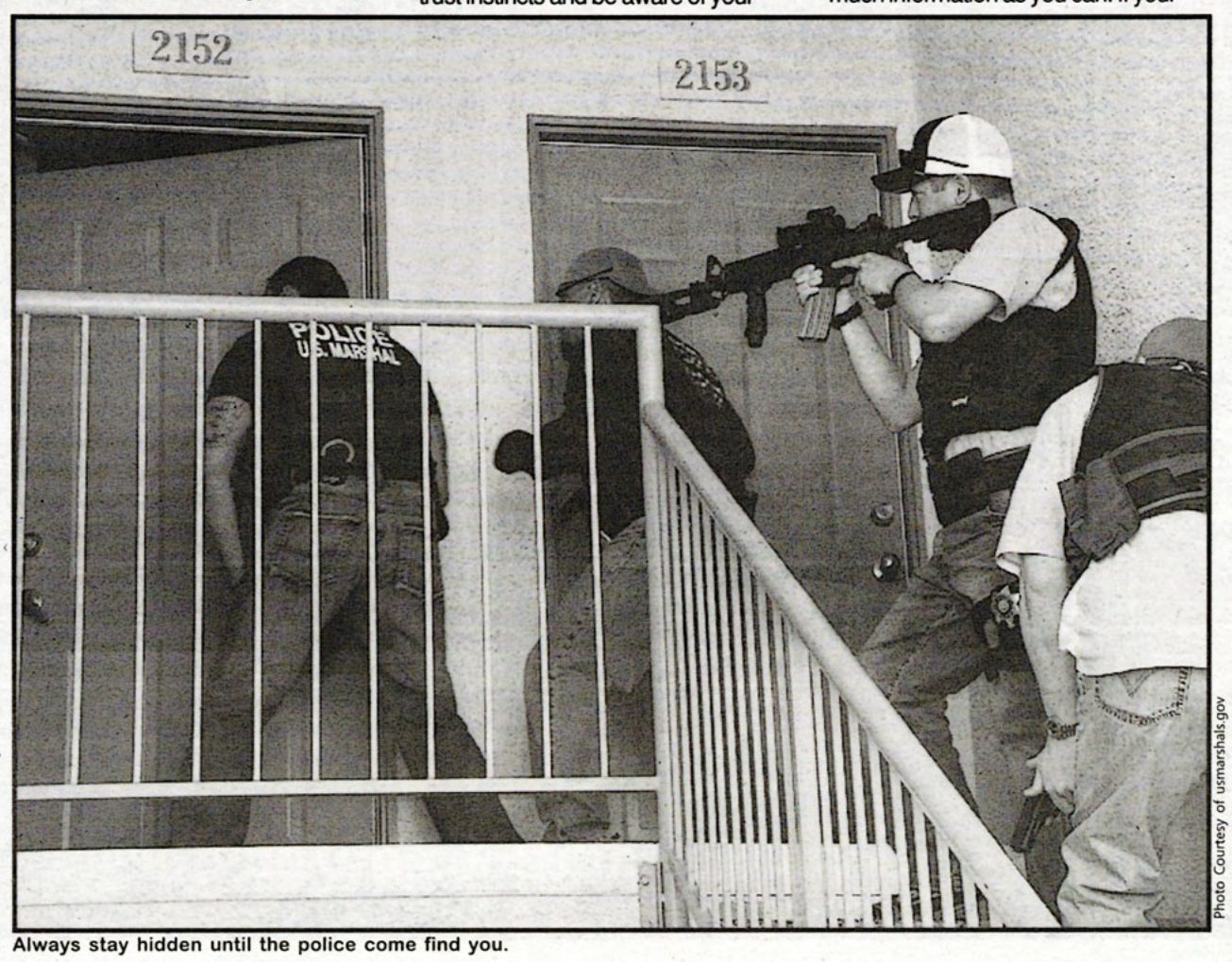

Photo Courtesy of usmarshals.gov

Always stay hidden until the police come find you.